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Priority theme: addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Statement submitted by the Association camerounaise pour la prise en charge de la personne âgée (ACAMAGE), a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Statement

Addressing inequalities and challenges to social inclusion through fiscal, wage and social protection policies

Social inclusion means ensuring that people have the means to participate in the life and development of their community or society as valued and respected members thereof. This can only be done by redesigning such policies as those governing taxes, wages and social protection.

Fiscal policies, a powerful economic tool of the State, are the crucible of redistribution. Wages and other payments to State officials, subsidies allocated to the private sector and social protection policies are the main benefits of such redistribution.

The informal sector is a major beneficiary of redistribution

Together, fiscal, wage and social protection policies ensure that the entire population has the purchasing power needed to handle day-to-day issues.

That resolves, at least in part, problems related to inclusion, social inequality and poverty.

Specific social protections apply to vulnerable persons, in particular older men and women, who have reached retirement age if they worked in the formal sector.

Their wages at that point are replaced by an old-age pension equivalent to about a third of what they previously earned.

One of the social protections provided to older persons is health-care coverage, as they more often than not suffer from numerous health problems.

Such coverage ensures that older persons are not left behind but can continue, like anyone else, to form an integral part of society and participate actively in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.